A

Nice Cut

FOR THE

DEMOLISHER:

OR,

Dr. Slare's

Experiments and Observations

Upon the

BEZOAR, &c.

Rip'd up.

Being a VINDICATION

OF

Dr. *Radclife* and Dr. *M---d*

From the

CHARGE of having made an Exorbitant Gain and Use of GASCOIN POWDER.

LONDON:

Printed for *J. Morphew*, near *Stationers-Hall*. 1715. (Price 3 *d.*)

A

NICE CAS

FOR THE

DEMOLISHER;

OR,

[illegible]

[illegible]

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

[illegible]

Being a VINDICATION

OF

Dr. Radcliffe and Dr. M—d.

from the

CHARGE of having made an Exorbitant
Gain and Use of Mercury.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Murphy, near St. Giles's-Pound.
1772. (Price 3 d.)

A Nice Cut FOR THE DEMOLISHER, &c.

TO vindicate the Dead from Aſperſions, has been always looked upon as ſo juſt a Motive of Writing or Speech, that the Antients inſtituted the Cuſtom of making Orations at their Funerals: which was done too with another laudable Deſign, (*viz.*) of perpetuating their good Actions, and making them exemplary to Poſterity.

What were the Noble and Learned Speeches of a Great Univerſity, and upon what Topicks their Orators pro-

ceeded in ſo extraordinary and rich a Subject as lately fell to them to harangue upon, I am wholly unable to conceive; having never had the Gift of Eloquence, nor had my Mouth open'd with the true and moſt powerful Rhetoricians Golden Key.

Nevertheleſs, I ſhall preſently lay down upon what *Poſtulata* (which are the *faireſt*) and *Principles* too (that are the *honeſteſt*) I deſign to proceed upon this great Work; *which is to raiſe up the fallen Statue of* Æſculapius, and render it more truely adorable than ever.

My *Poſtulata* are only, that I may allow *You the Demoliſher of Idols, both the Dead and the Living*, all your Facts, Arguments, *&c.* to be true, except a little Variation, where the Senſes of the Vulgar, as well as the moſt Knowing and Experienc'd, will not be impos'd upon. And as to my Principles, (*viz.*) of *Right* and *Honeſty*, they are ſuch as to give you

you the whole Merit of your Undertaking, which for the Publick Good and National Benefit, is truely Great and Laudable, and deſerves moſt worthily to be rewarded.

In the firſt Paragraph you prove, by Chymical Tryals, that the ſo much priz'd *Bezoar* is a mere earthy Subſtance, with little of Spirit, Salt, or Sapor. Plainly it has little.

In the ſeven following Experiments you ſhow, that no Liquors, even *Aqua Fortis*, will work upon it. Which proves the firſt Aſſertion in my Opinion of its being an Earth or Clay: for neither Acids, Salts, nor Spirits, will pervade ſuch a Subſtance. Which our common Brewers, as well as Chymiſts know full well.

After, you pretty rightly infer, that 'tis manifeſtly, *or in Appearance* no great *Alkaly*, or Counter-Poiſon. Pag. 4.

Ibid.

Ibid. You tell us, that it has little or no Smell or Taſte of its own. Right. And 'tis a diſtinguiſhing Obſervation of *your own.*

Fifthly, That it affords no Refreſhment, nor can be digeſted by the Diſſolvent of the Stomach, ſo as to nouriſh; but a Glaſs of good Ale or Wine are better by much. Agreeing with *my* Judgment exactly: And ſo we go together to ſee the Effects of it as a Medicine.

And in the firſt place we find, that it did to Queen *Mary* no Good at all, when ſhe lay upon her Death-bed in the Small Pox. Nor, in the very ſame Page, to Mr. *Squib*, tho' they both took a large Quantity; for they died with it in their Stomachs: Where I believe it lay, without ſeeing the Diſſection.

In

In the next Paragraph you tell us, that five Grains of *Bezoar* would not cure a Malignant Fever in two Children you ſaw dead upon the Floor, or Bed, after it: But your high Alexipharmicks, *Radix Serpentariæ Virgin. Ther. Adr.* and *Volatile Salts*, ſav'd the Lives of two others of the ſame Mother. Very right, and well perform'd!

Ibid. That you durſt not rely on the *Bezoar* in any difficult Caſe or Hazard, by Delay either of a Cordial or Sudorifick where they are wanting. True, you ſhould not; it having apparently no Virtue as to either of thoſe Effects: And a Farthing's Worth of *Treacle* (even of the common ſort) is much better than a Crown or Ten Shillings expended in this dear Drug: Or a Glaſs of good Wine with *Harts-Horn*, has fifty times the Life in it.

Your own Experiment upon your ſelf Pag. 10. I have no Cavil at all at. And your

your diſtinguiſhing between the Virtues of that Drug, if it have any, and thoſe better ones that are mix'd or taken with it, is right, and to the Purpoſe.

Its being a ſuppos'd Counter-Poiſon by ſome, as you hint Pag. 11. is highly ridiculous; except we could imagine the Stomach to be paſted all over the Inſide with it, which, I verily believe, would keep *Aqua Fortis* from running through, by your ſixth and ſeventh Experiment; tho' it might not then do for *Sublimate* or *Mercury*, which you mention juſt after. Nor can I conceive it ſhould cure the Belly-Worms, or others, which certainly have no Antipathy to mere Clay or Mud, except the *Semen Sanzonici*, or *Worm-Seed*, be ſown in it.

All this, with your Enumeration of the ſeveral Ingredients of the *Gaſcoin* or *Bezoardick* Powder, and taking notice that it has but very little of the *Bezoar* Stone

Stone in it, tho' it takes its moſt precious and valued Name from thence, are all, I think, right good Remarks to a Tittle.

And ſo we deſcend to examine this Compound as to the reſt of the Drugs, which muſt go all out of doors, if they do not mend upon us in their Tryal.

Of Amber.

The Firſt, namely *Amber*, you give us ſeveral Experiments upon, Pag. 13. but tell us, that few things would work on it; only that *Spirit of Wine* or *Harts-Horn*, would draw a Tincture with much Difficulty, and the *Amber* would ſcarce be diminiſh'd in its Weight, no more than *Gold* is by the like Experiments: But we muſt not expect a ſtrong Diſſolvent in the Stomach. Perhaps not for *Amber*, tho' there is a very good one for *Iron*. But I reſt contented in

this Point at preſent, and proceed to the next Ingredient, which is *Harts-Horn*.

And to make the beſt on't, you ſay, (that is, by turning it to a Gelly) 'tis but poor Stuff without *Sugar*, or the Juice of *Oranges* (which I ſuppoſe you prefer before *Limons*). And this poor Stuff, and ſuch a poor little on't too, you tell us, as a ſingle Grain, Pag. 15. is hard to come at this Way: So that we are not likely to be better'd by it when we are ſick.

The Fourth Ingredient is *Pearl*, which you ſeem to ſet no Price upon as a Medicine. And indeed, I have heard ſeveral People affirm, that a Piece of clear Oiſter-ſhell well powder'd is as good; and 'twill have full as much Effect upon ſowre Beer, or even any of thoſe Liquors you mix'd with the firſt; as I do verily believe, and I ſuppoſe You too.

The

The other three Ingredients, namely, *Crabs-Eyes*, *Crabs-Claws*, and *Coral*, you acknowledge to be like the laſt, and to be reaſonable enough in their Price; but that the cheapeſt of them had the moſt apparent Action of the whole: So that in all, or every Particular, we are moſt wretchedly impos'd upon and cheated by ſome.

After this, you reiterate the ſame Experiments upon *Gaſcoin* Powder in *Compoſito*, Pag. 18. as you had before done in its ſingle Ingredients, and find it to be a mere Slug ſtill: And you ſeem now reſolv'd (as indeed you had at firſt declar'd) to condemn it; yet not without hearing Witneſſes in its Defence.

The firſt of which did ſay ſomething for it, Pag. 20. namely, that it abſorb'd Acidities, and was a gentle Diaphoretick. Small Proof of its being the beſt Medicine or Powder of the Shops, as he

had boasted; especially when we have the *Semen Sanctonici*, which I have heard extol'd in the Publick *Forum*, or Market, by the high Title of *Vermis Victor*, or the *Worm-vanquishing* Powder; as if it would destroy even a *Rattle-Snake*.

The next Voucher for *the first Powder* (*as esteem'd most by him, tho' not by you*) you tell us, was no less than the Grandee of the Faculty. But he took the thing plainly *'tis thought* upon Trust, as most of your Great Men are too apt to do; which is a Fault in them sometimes, as must be own'd.

But certainly our Grandee had most prodigious Luck, to get Fifty Thousand Pounds by this *paultry dirty Drug*, as you have made it. And still that two Persons should succeed (*viz.*) both him and the first *Æsculapius*, and raise their Estates and their Pride by it, so as to be ador'd and Deified, is amazing and miraculous

raculous. Yet I can credit it throughly as you do, and becauſe you ſay it.

Beſides, I know ſome of the Patients of the late defunct *Æſculapius* who are particularly very great Admirers of this Medicine: ſo that it has coſt them pretty round Sums, what with the Advice and the Drug together, to my Knowledge.

One of them, and the moſt intimate with me, had once a very odd Misfortune in it.

He had ſent to his Friend, a Merchant in *London*, to get him ſome of this dear *Powder* at the beſt hand, ſo it were good; which was done. But when ſeveral other Things came down by the Carrier, this was miſſing. He ſends for more; the *Powder* ſtill fail'd: and ſo a third time: when wondring at the Odneſs of it, he took notice of another Matter that he did not know the Mean-

ing

ing of; which was, That at every Return of the Carrier, he had ſent him down ſome Balls to get out Spots in Cloaths These, upon Trial, he could not find had any extraordinary Excellence, that they ſhould be ſo preſſed upon him; for he had us'd a pretty deal of them in the Family on purpoſe to know. At laſt it came out by Gueſs-work more than any thing elſe, that this was the very *Gaſcoin* Powder, made up into theſe round Figures or Pellets, which might eaſily deceive: for as to its Smell or Taſte, a little *Album Græcum* has commonly as much, and ſometimes more.

This was a very unfortunate Miſtake, and coſt dear. But the Virtues of this Medicine are not to be diſparag'd by an improper Application, as in the fore-cited Caſe, and ſome others, that your ſelf have nam'd. For they are really very good notwithſtanding, as I ſhall now go about to prove both by Negative

Negative and Poſitive Arguments of ſeveral Kinds, and ſerious enough.

And firſt, (which is a main thing too in Phyſick, let me tell you) 'tis prov'd all along by your Arguments, that this Medicine can have very little Hurt in it; and if free from Hairs (which you ſeem ſuſpicious only may ſometimes be conceal'd in the *Bezoar* Stone, as well as that of *Engliſh* Animals) none at all.

Now a Phyſician of Skill may make an admirable Uſe of ſuch a Medicine: for every body almoſt proves ſatisfied in it.

Firſt, The Man of Skill confides and has good Hopes moſtly, becauſe he has a ſure Friend to act for him, namely *Nature*, that will do him Credit if he durſt but truſt her.

Secondly, The Apothecary or Maker up of the Medicine is pleas'd, becauſe he

he can ſet what Rate is beſt for him upon ſuch Drugs; and ſo is himſelf to blame if he does not make his Buſineſs worth his Coſt and Labour.

Thirdly, The Patient commonly approves both, becauſe he either believes himſelf, or is really better by it or after it. For in all theſe there are Diſtinctions.

But perhaps you take 'em to be trifling, and that they won't come up to a good Defence of the Doctors that I undertook. True; and allowing you one Suppoſition, of all Fevers being Malignant (as thoſe were you cur'd by Sudorificks and high Alexipharmicks, and that would not yield to the moſt *powerful Bezoar*, *precious as Gold it ſelf for Medicine*) you would be certainly in the right ever to make uſe of them; and not of this, becauſe 'tis plainly unactive, eſpecially by it ſelf.

But there are ſome Fevers, and I believe with a certain Author, the greateſt part

part too, that are not Malignant, but only the Effects of a ſmall Irregularity in Diet, Cold, Sitting-up, &c. which would be cur'd without Medicines, and only a due Regimen ſometimes; but with a very ſmall Addition of real help to Nature are vanquiſh'd both ſafely and ſpeedily. And yet theſe with a croſs and ill Management, in Regard to her Dictates, are often found tedious and dangerous enough.

Now I'll tell you the Great *Æſculapius*'s real Method in theſe, was, to omit either Vomiting or Bleeding, as alſo violent Sweating, and only give the *Gaſcoin* Powder, which is gentle you own, ordering the Patients to lie in Bed, to promote Perſpiration, a good while: by which they often found themſelves well in Four and twenty Hours, and by a ſecond or third Doſe at fartheſt.

He was no very bloody Deity (tho' he was ſomething inexorable) as many own.

But yet for rendering up of all Accounts, by Vomiting, &c. I have been inform'd by a Friend of the preſent *Grandee of the Faculty* (whether the ſame with yours, or not, I don't know) that he had a much leſs Opinion of it, as to its Uſe, Neceſſity, or Safety, than almoſt any one living and preſcribing at preſent: Tho' this preſent *Æſculapius*, I believe, delivers much the ſame Precepts in many Caſes.

Nor is this a mean and ſneaking Practice (but the contrary in my Opinion is:) for if ſo, neither of theſe could have got ſuch Fame and Riches, *as in your Account*, and by this Medicine, which I muſt once more examine into; for I am loath to think of parting with it, becauſe I take it to be very harmleſs, and that it has ſome Virtues, as I ſhall name.

And firſt, You yourſelf ſeem to allow it to be an abſorbent of Acid Humours, tho' not ſo quick as you would have; but it may be the more laſting. And this

this Indurance of a good Medicine, in my Opinion, is worth regarding. For Steel-Filings or Duſt (to take a different Caſe from a Fever) operate ſooner; but the groſſeſt or largeſt Pieces of it have the beſt Effect, as I could ſhew by Reaſons, Authority and Caſes. And the Diſſolvent of the Stomach, which you take to be a weak one, is really exceſſively ſtrong: ſo that Iron won't hold it, nor Stone neither, very long, as I could prove.

The ſecond Ingredient of *Gaſcoin* Powder, namely *Amber*, I think you don't go about to deny, but it may have Virtues inherent in it; (for I ſuppoſe you have read what Praiſes are given of it by Naturaliſts, *&c.*) only you ſay, its Powers are not to be come at but by a ſtrong Heat. I wonder you ſhould miſs ſo obvious a Thing as almoſt every one has try'd, (*viz.*) take the Head of an Amber Cane, and rub it but a little with your warm Hand, and its Volatile Salts are loos'd, and ſtrike your Noſe very ſenſi-

bly, if you apply to it for Refreſhment.

Now I conceive the Stomach to have as much Warmth and Motion too, as is neceſſary for ſuch a Work: for I would not have it very quick, and if it laſt an whole Night this *Chymical Operation*, the better. I am for no violent doings, except in deſperate Caſes; and you ſhall hear ſome Reaſons for it.

And *Firſt*, That celebrated Phyſician *Sydenham*, whoſe Works I have read, was ſcarce ever for very ſtrong Sweating, except in the Plague, Pag. 356. *or in Peſtilential or truly Malignant Fevers*, in ſome Degree of Proportion we may ſuppoſe.

Secondly, Becauſe diſcourſing with a Perſon of ſupreme Eminent Parts and Thought, and who was well acquainted too with this great Practiſer, he expreſſed his Notion of a *Diaphoreſis*, or Sweating,

ing, that it ſhould be *gentle*, *long*, and *eaſy*; all which concur in this Medicine, and can't do otherwiſe. 'Tis gentle you your ſelf own. 'Tis long or laſting, I affirm, becauſe the Ingredients of it (eſpecially the *Amber*, which has the moſt active Salt in it) is ſlow of Diſſolving. 'Tis eaſy, becauſe the Stomach and Nerves too, are in ſome meaſure gratified all the while; and there can be no Fainting, nor Defect of Spirits (except in ſuch who are us'd to Wine, Brandy, &c. which you ſhew indeed this won't come up to) becauſe *Amber* is one good Specifick in the Vapours, as is diſcernable by its reviving the Spirits in ſmelling to, which *Caſtor*, *Aſſa fœtida*, &c. do; and they have the ſame Effect in the Stomach.

This is therefore a very proper Remedy in all common Caſes of Fevers, &c. in the moſt nice Conſtitutions; eſpecially when they are but firſt begun, and are not yet wrought up, by a falſe Art, to

be

be conſiderable and dangerous Diſeaſes, and then put on the dread Title of *Malignants*, which we can eaſily ſhew how they acquire; for I am aſſured 'tis not genuine nor hereditary to moſt of them, *Syd.* p. 26. but gain'd by ill Meaſures, exhauſting or weakening Methods, *&c.* which both the Antients, and thoſe famous Moderns *Sydenham*, *Radclife* and *M----d*, have long and frequently diſapprov'd.

I could find more Arguments which ſhould be drawn from firmer Proceſſes in the Hermetick Art, than thoſe you have us'd: But theſe are ſufficient for vindicating the Honours of thoſe two Great Perſons; one of which wants not the ſmall Endeavours of my Pen, ſo long as he himſelf is living, and by his Actions can diſpel all *Miſtake*. Which is the worſt Term I ſhall give to your Work or Deſign, which, as far as I can ſee into it, was Laudable; namely, the preventing the Publick from being impos'd

upon

upon, and a vaſt Expence of Treaſure * waſted for no Uſe. This I heartily wiſh the Parliament themſelves would take care of, and beſtow on you your due Reward or Premium beſides.

* *Dr.* Slare *tells us of one ſingle Druggiſt's depoſiting* 1200*l. prime Coſt annually, for true Oriental* Bezoar, *p.* 34.

As for the Apothecaries, whom you mention as *Loſers*; when ever a Regulation is made, I would have them be allow'd to keep up to the full and uſual Price of this Medicine, otherwiſe 'twill be chang'd, I fear, for a worſe; which 'tis viſible it may be, by what I have related.

But if your Sentiments and mine, as to that laſt Point, ſhould ſtill differ, it muſt be a real Concern to

Your Humble and

Moſt Devoted Servant,

L. W——l.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM